

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The amendments set forth above and the following remarks are responsive to the points raised by the Office Action dated January 6, 2011. In view of the amendments set forth above and the following remarks, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Pending Claims

Claim 4 is amended, and claims 13-16 are added, to describe the invention more clearly. Claims 1-16 are pending. No new matter is added, and support for the amended claim language may be found within the specification, claims, and drawings. Support for claim 4 may be found in the specification at, e.g., Figure 3. Support for claim 13 may be found in the specification at, e.g., page 5, lines 16-21 and page 7, lines 12-17. Support for claim 14 may be found in the specification at, e.g., page 7, lines 12-17. Support for claim 15 may be found in the specification at, e.g., page 8, lines 8-14. Support for claim 16 may be found in the specification at, e.g., page 5, lines 1-4.

The Office Action

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0155479 to Kishi et al. (hereinafter, "Kishi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,946,988 to Edwards et al. (hereinafter, "Edwards") in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0013138 to Benthin et al. (hereinafter, "Benthin").

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action acknowledges that Kishi fails to disclose a device having a wireless link. The Office Action also acknowledges that Edwards discloses multiple transmitters/receivers. The Office Action further alleges that Benthin teaches the use of a single transmitter/receiver in paragraphs [0020]-[0023].

Independent claims 1 and 9 clearly recite that the device itself has only "a single transmitter and a single receiver." In other words, the claimed equipment has only a single transmitter and a single receiver which establish a wireless link for both of the attached and removed conditions of the claimed equipment.

The use of a single transmitter and a single receiver, as claimed, has numerous advantages, including greater simplicity and a reduction in the number of components used in the device. In addition, as explained in the specification, the wireless link provided by a *single* transmitter (410/410') and a *single* receiver (420/420') advantageously enables the *same* communication channel to be used between the control panel (200) and the playing mechanism (300) so that the communication channel does not need to be changed or switched when the panel (200) is attached to or removed from the chassis (100). Furthermore, no electrical contact is required (specification, e.g., page 7, line 19 to page 8, line 3).

The obviousness rejection cannot be maintained because the combination of Kishi, Edwards, and Benthin fails to teach or suggest a device that has “a single transmitter and a single receiver,” as claimed in claims 1 and 9.

On the contrary, Benthin fails to teach a device with only “a single transmitter and a single receiver,” as claimed in independent claims 1 and 9. Benthin teaches a control panel 5 (shown in Figure 2) including a transmitter 21 and a receiver 22 (paragraph [0020]). In addition to the transmitter and receiver 21 and 22, however, the device of Benthin also has a *second* pair of transmitter and receiver 26, 27, as shown in Figure 3 (paragraph [0021] and [0024]). Benthin also clearly states that “[w]hen the control panel 5 has been placed in the opening 105, the transmitter 26 of the radio receiver 1 corresponds with the receiver 22 of the control panel 5, and the transmitter 21 of the control panel 5 corresponds then with the receiver 21 of the radio receiver 1” (paragraph [0021]). Benthin further teaches that “[t]he transmitter 21 of the control panel 5 and the receiver 27 of the radio receiver 1, and the transmitter 26 of the radio receiver 1 and the receiver 22 of the control panel 5, are in close mechanical and optical contact with one another” (paragraph [0024]). Thus, clearly, the device of Benthin possesses and relies on *two* pairs of transmitters and receivers, i.e., transmitter 21, receiver 22, transmitter 26, and receiver 27, contrary to the claimed device. Accordingly, Benthin fails to teach a device including only “a single transmitter and a single receiver,” as claimed in independent claims 1 and 9. Because the combination of Kishi, Edwards, and Benthin fails to teach or suggest a device that has “a single transmitter and a single receiver,” as claimed in claims 1 and 9, the obviousness rejection cannot be maintained.

Independent claims 1 and 9 also each recite a control panel having a bottom part “detachably hinged” to that of the chassis front side “such that the control panel is removable from the chassis.”

The obviousness rejection cannot be maintained because the combination of Kishi, Edwards, and Benthin fails to teach or suggest a device that has a control panel having a bottom part “detachably hinged” to that of the chassis front side “such that the control panel is removable from the chassis,” as claimed in claims 1 and 9.

The Office Action does not even so much as allege that any of Kishi, Edwards, or Benthin discloses a control panel having a bottom part “detachably hinged” to that of the chassis front side “such that the control panel is removable from the chassis.” All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art. (*In re Wilson*, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970); MPEP § 2143.03). The Office Action has not done this. The Office Action alleges that Kishi discloses an apparatus in which the control panel has a “bottom part hinged to that of the chassis front side such that a top part of the panel is pivotable from an upward position wherein the control panel lies flat on the chassis front side forward away from the chassis to a downward position extending therefrom for operation” (Office Action, pages 2-3; carryover sentence). However, the Office Action fails to address the claim element of a control panel having a bottom part “detachably hinged” to that of the chassis front side “such that the control panel is removable from the chassis” that is claimed in claims 1 and 9.

Indeed, Kishi does not teach that the panel 3 is detachable from the main body 2. Kishi discloses an operating mechanism 6 for moving the panel 3 between a shield position in which the front surface panel 2a side is hidden and an operating part usable position in which the front surface panel 2a side is exposed and the operating part 4 can be used (paragraph [0022]). Nowhere does Kishi teach or suggest a control panel having a bottom part “detachably hinged” to that of the chassis front side “such that the control panel is removable from the chassis,” as claimed in claims 1 and 9.

Edwards discloses a removable remote controller for an electronic entertainment device (col. 2, lines 60-62). However, the remote controller of Edwards is not “hinged,” as recited in claims 1 and 9. Nowhere does Edwards teach or suggest a control panel having a bottom part “detachably hinged” to that of the chassis front side “such that the control panel is removable from the chassis,” as claimed in claims 1 and 9.

Benthin discloses a radio receiver including a removable control panel 5 for operating the radio receiver which can also be used as a mobile phone (abstract). Benthin teaches that if the user of the radio receiver 1 leaves his vehicle, then he takes out the control panel 5 to secure the radio receiver 1 against theft. At the same time, the control panel 5 can be used as a fully functional mobile phone, independently of the radio receiver 1 (paragraph [0026]). Nowhere does Benthin teach or suggest a control panel having a bottom part “detachably hinged” to that of the chassis front side “such that the control panel is removable from the chassis,” as claimed in claims 1 and 9.

Moreover, the Office Action does not explain why a control panel that is “detachably hinged” to the chassis front side “such that the control panel is removable from the chassis” would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. In order for an obviousness rejection to be maintained, the Office Action must provide an appropriate supporting rationale for the proposed modification (*KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc. (KSR)*, 550 U.S. 398, 82 USPQ2d 1385 (2007); MPEP § 2141). The Office Action has failed to do this. Accordingly, the obviousness rejection of claims 1 and 9 cannot be maintained.

Independent claims 1 and 9 are patentable for the reasons set forth above. The dependent claims are also patentable because they depend from and include the limitations of independent claims 1 or 9.

Dependent claim 10 is also patentable, not only because it depends from and includes the limitations of patentable claim 9, but because it also defines limitations not taught by Kishi, Edwards, and Benthin.

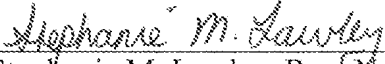
Claim 10 recites that the transmitter and receiver are located adjacent the hinge axis. The Office Action alleges that Kishi figures 3 and 9-10 teach that the transmitter and receiver are located adjacent the hinge. However, Kishi fails to teach a transmitter and a receiver. As the Office Action acknowledges, Kishi fails to disclose a device having a wireless link.

Therefore, Kishi fails to teach that "the transmitter and receiver are located adjacent the hinge axis," as claimed in claim 10. The Office Action alleges that Edwards Figure 4 and column 3, lines 40-45 teach that the transmitter and receiver are located adjacent the hinge. Edwards Figure 4 shows a transceiver 33 and a remote lens 21 on the remote controller 5. However, as explained above, Edwards discloses a removable remote controller (col. 2, lines 60-62) that is not "hinged." Therefore, Edwards cannot teach that "the transmitter and receiver are located adjacent the hinge axis," as claimed in claim 10. These deficiencies are not cured by Benthin. Accordingly, the obviousness rejection of claim 10 cannot be maintained.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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Amendment or ROA - Regular (SML/mlg)